

THE NEW YORK TIMES,

32 Congressmen Also Get V.A. or Disability Checks

WASHINGTON, April 5 (AP)—The Federal Government says 18 members of Congress are disabled and sends them checks every month to compensate them.

At least another 14 receive a monthly military pension check or a Veterans Administration payment in addition to their \$57,500-a-year salaries and their travel allowances.

Recipients of the extra checks include such well known and powerful members as Senators John Glenn, Democrat of Ohio; Strom Thurmond, Republican of South Carolina, and Robert J. Dole, Republican of Kansas, and Representatives Olin E. Teague, Democrat of Texas; John J. Flynt Jr., Democrat of Georgia;

John Young, Democrat of Texas, and Al Ullman, Democrat of Oregon.

The additional checks range from \$41 a month to \$1,109 a month. They are all legal.

"When people ask if it is right that I get it, I say, 'Under present circumstances, clearly yes,'" said Representative Jim Lloyd, Democrat of California, who draws a \$618-a-month military pension for his 21 years in the Navy. "But is it morally right? No. We need to make a change in the system."

System Is Under Fire

The payments have been severely criticized by those who say that Congress should change Federal retirement sys-

tems to limit or eliminate the second checks.

"It's high time we got Congress off the Pentagon payroll," said Sid Taylor, the research director of the National Taxpayers Union, a grass-roots lobbying group. "We have too many Senator-generals, Senator-colonels and Congressman-colonels in today's Congress."

Mr. Taylor asked, "How can members of Congress vote objectively on defense appropriations, military pay or pension increases while they are officers on the Pentagon payroll or pension rolls at the same time?"

One of the biggest two-check incomes goes to Senator Howard W. Cannon,

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Democrat of Nevada, who gets a \$1,072-a-month military pension. This puts Mr. Cannon's annual income from the Government at \$70,369. Mr. Cannon was a major general in the Air Force Reserve.

Believes He Earned It

"He feels that he earned his pension regardless of how much he makes," said an aide to Mr. Cannon.

The largest second check goes to Representative Charles Bennett, Democrat of Florida, who receives \$1,109 a month from the Veterans Administration. Mr. Bennett contracted polio while fighting in the Philippines in World War II and now walks with a brace and a cane.

But the Congressman is one of four who returns his pension to the Government. "I don't feel I need it," he said. "I'm drawing such a big income from the Government that I don't want to be greedy. Now, I don't think veterans com-

pensation should be any different if your income is high or low. I just think Congress is paid too much."

Mr. Teague gets a \$951-a-month military disability pension for a war wound that eventually cost him his leg.

Mr. Dole, who was President Ford's running mate in 1976, gets \$704 a month. He was critically wounded in Italy in World War II. His right hand and arm are still crippled.

Mr. Thurmond receives a \$765-a-month military pension while Mr. Ullman, who heads the House Ways and Means Committee, gets a \$506-a-month military pension.

Mr. Flynt, who heads the House ethics committee, receives \$669 a month from his regular military pension while Mr. Young gets \$599 a month in military disability pension.

In addition to Mr. Bennett, three other

members of Congress do not keep their second checks. They are Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona; Representative John J. Rhodes of Arizona, the House minority leader, and Keith G. Sebelius, Republican of Kansas.

Mr. Goldwater donates his \$864 monthly military pension check to charity. Mr. Rhodes returns his \$545 military pension to the Treasury, earmarked for reducing the national debt. Mr. Sebelius says he is putting his \$423 military pension into a fund for a charitable foundation that he is setting up himself.

Mr. Glenn's \$848-a-month military pension is for service that included America's first manned orbital space flight.

"His feeling is that his pension represents deferred income for his 23 years in the Marine Corps," said a spokesman for the Senator.

WASHINGTON POST

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Rep. Richmond To Face Charge Of Solicitation

By Laura A. Kiernan
and E. J. Bachinski

Washington Post Staff Writers

Rep. Frederick W. Richmond (D-N.Y.) will be charged in D.C. Superior Court today with solicitation for prostitution in connection with an incident last February involving a male undercover D.C. police officer, U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert said last night.

Silbert informed the congressman's lawyers earlier last night of his decision to file the charge. It is a misdemeanor punishable by 90 days in jail, a \$250 fine or both.

An hour later, Richmond issued a public statement in which he acknowledged soliciting the officer, and said he also had "made solicitations with payment of money to a young man beginning almost a year ago . . . Nothing more happened."

Richmond, 54, said in his statement that he had been advised he would be eligible for a special treatment program at Superior Court for first offenders in cases like his.

In his statement, which began "Dear Neighbor," the two-term congressman appealed for compassion and understanding from his Brooklyn constituents "at this extremely difficult time for myself, my parents, my son, my staff—and for you."

"I cannot offer any logical explanation," Richmond said in the statement, adding that "during various periods of personal stress I made bad judgments involving my private life."

Richmond, a millionaire industrialist, said he has been aware of "intense pressures for some time" and had sought and will continue to seek "appropriate professional advice."

"I apologize from the bottom of my heart for any hurt I may have caused," Richmond said.

Richmond has been the subject of a D.C. police investigation since last November after a 16-year-old youth complained to police that he had been solicited by a man he later identified as Richmond, and was asked to procure other youths, sources close to the investigation said.

Last February, the youth and an undercover police officer, who carried a knapsack filled with tape recording equipment, met with Richmond at his Northwest Washington home, the sources said.

The youth eventually left the apartment, the sources said. During the evening, Richmond made specific sexual overtures to the undercover police officer and said he would pay up to \$100 for the favors, according to the sources.

When the police investigation was completed, the case was sent to Attorney General Griffin B. Bell for his review. Silbert refused to comment last night when asked about the case being sent to the Justice Department.

On Monday morning, two reporters for columnist Jack Anderson confronted Richmond in his Capitol Hill office with information that he had made sexual advances to young males, according to one of Richmond's lawyers, Stanton D. Anderson. The information was then included in a Jack Anderson column that was

scheduled to appear next week in newspapers across the country.

That afternoon, after Richmond was visited by the reporters, U.S. Attorney Silbert telephoned Richmond's lawyers and "indicated we should talk," attorney Stanton Anderson said. Richmond's lawyers met with Silbert briefly Tuesday morning and at length yesterday. Attorney Anderson said, to discuss the complaints against the congressman.

At about 8 o'clock last night, Silbert telephoned Richmond's lawyers

and informed them that Richmond would be charged today in connection with the February incident, attorney Anderson said. He said Richmond was with his lawyers in their offices on 15th Street NW throughout the evening.

Silbert said last night that Richmond would be eligible for the court's first offender program. In that program, Richmond could enter an innocent plea to the charge and his case would be postponed for a period of time set by a judge.

During that time, Richmond would be required to comply with certain conditions set down by the court. Richmond said in his statement that such conditions would include "the continuation of professional treatment." Upon his return to court, if he had complied with the conditions, the charge against him would be dismissed.

In his statement, which will be distributed through Richmond's New York office today, the congressman said he hopes "that my record of community involvement, congressional activity and civic endeavor will be judged on its own merits."

Richmond, who is divorced, has twice been elected to Congress by large margins. He is a member of the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Small Business, and is chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations and Nutrition.

Last December, he traveled to Cuba with another congressman and, during a long conversation with Fidel Castro, passed along messages from President Carter urging the release of American prisoners in Cuba and the end of Cuban military involvement in Africa.

Richmond's interests have included reform of food stamp regulations, conservation of trees in major cities, an improved summer feeding program for poor youths, and revisions of inheritance tax laws on paintings.

Richmond was born in Boston and attended Harvard. After serving as a Navy radioman in the Pacific during World War II, he received a degree in government and politics from Boston University in 1945. He subsequently earned a doctorate of laws degree at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

In the years following the war, he opened an import-export business and rose to become chairman of the boards of a number of corporations throughout the eastern United States that manufactured items as diverse as electric motors, molded plastic products, pulp making machinery, valves, and funeral and burial supplies.

Richmond is a millionaire who owns an extensive collection of 18th Century porcelains and furniture, and 19th and 20th century paintings.

He has been chairman of the board of the Carnegie Hall Corp., a member of the New York State Council on the Arts and chairman of the New York Businessmen's Committee for the Employment of Ex-Offenders.

From 1959 to 1964, he was chairman of the Greater New York Urban League and, from 1964 to 1970, served as New York City's Human rights commissioner. He became a New York City Council member in 1973 and was elected to Congress in 1974 when incumbent John Rooney retired.